

DRAFT



**Symposium on
“Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States -
SIDS: Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships”**

21-23 February 2017

Nassau, Commonwealth of the Bahamas

Organized by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas with the support of
the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

DRAFT PROGRAMME



Tuesday, February 21, 2017

<i>OPENING SESSION</i> (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&B)	
9:00 – 10:15	<p><i>Video presentation by the Host Government (3 min)</i></p> <p><i>Opening remarks by Host Government and UNDESA:</i> Hon. Khaalis Rolle Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, The Bahamas</p> <p>Mr. WU Hongbo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs United Nations</p> <p><i>Special remarks</i> H.E. Ahmed Sareer Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava President of the Economic and Social Council Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations</p> <p>H.E. Dessima Williams Special Adviser for Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, President of the General Assembly</p> <p>Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi Secretary-General of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p>Mr. Nikhil Seth Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox Director, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Perry G Christie Prime Minister, The Bahamas</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony:</i> The Reverend James Moultrie Chairman of The Bahamas Public Service Commission and former Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United Nations</p>
10:15 - 10:45 am	<i>Coffee Break (Venue: Partnerships Café)</i>

	<i>Press Conference</i>
10:45 - 12:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Integrated plans and policies for realizing the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway</p> <p>High-level Roundtable (<i>Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&B</i>)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:30 – 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break (Aqua Restaurant)</i>
2:00 - 4:00 pm	<p>Breakout Groups</p> <p>Group 1: Supporting integrated and risk-informed Implementation of 2030 Development Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS (<i>Venue: Room Arawak A</i>)</p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How far have SIDS gone in incorporating SDGs and targets in their national plans and policies? 2. Have they also incorporated the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, Sendai Framework and Climate Change Agreement? What capacities are needed in the public sector, private enterprises and civil society organisations to incorporate those agendas into policies and plans? 3. What kind of mechanisms have worked to allow the development and implementation of integrated policies and plans? 4. How can policy making incorporate risks related to climate, disasters and economic and other shocks? 5. Which kind of leadership is needed in order to put in place coordinated, integrated and risk-informed policies and plans and build the necessary capacity? <p><i>(Refer to think piece 1)</i></p> <p>Group 2: Regional and Global Policy Coherence: Supporting the sustainable development of SIDS (<i>Venue: Ballroom C</i>)</p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main areas where lack of policy coherence negatively impacts on the situation of SIDS? 2. What has worked nationally and internationally to improve policy coherence?

	<p>3. What can SIDS Government do to minimize the impacts of derisking? <i>(Refer to Think Piece 1)</i></p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<i>Coffee Break (Venue: Partnerships Café)</i>
4:30 – 6:00 pm	<p>Plenary round table: <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A& B)</i></p> <p>Discussion: <i>lessons and recommendations from the Breakout Groups - Interventions by other participants</i></p>
6:30 pm	Photo Opportunity & Welcome Reception (Host)

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

8:00 - 9:00 am	<p>Breakfast conversations: Regional groupings (Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS) <i>(Venue: Ballroom C, Arawak A&B) (by invitation only)</i></p>
9:00 – 11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION II</p> <p>Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to realize our commitments</p> <p>“Show and Tell”- learning from each other: <i>(break-out groups with short lead presentations followed by three-minute interventions by other participants on their experience)</i></p> <p>Group 1: <i>(Venue: Room Arawak A)</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) <i>Shaping institutional arrangements and mobilizing institutions</i> b) <i>Equipping and building capacities and tools</i></p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the challenges SIDS are facing in readying their institutions to SDG implementation – at the national and local level? 2. What institutional mechanisms are SIDS putting in place to address those challenges? What are the potential benefits and trade-offs of such arrangements? 3. Is implementation led by the Head of state and government, and/or an influential ministry? Are parliaments, local authorities, supreme audit institutions and stakeholders being engaged? Is policy integration being improved? 4. What are the constraints and opportunities arising from SIDS’ specific conditions in developing accountable, inclusive and effective institutions in pursuit of SDGs? What have been good practices in overcoming the constraints?

	<p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 2)</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
	<p>Group 2: (Venue: Ballroom C) (a) Delivering public services (b) Building trust and ensuring public participation and accountability in SDG implementation</p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are key challenges in delivering public services for realizing the SDGs? What are some innovative practices for public service delivery and what have we learned? 2. What are the successful experiences in engaging various development actors in policy making and implementation for the SDGs, including the poorest and most vulnerable? 3. Are there specific processes to inform people about their rights and the pursuit of the SDGs? 4. What are good experiences in ensuring good governance and tackling corruption and crime? <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 2)</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
11:00 - 11:30 pm	Coffee break (Venue: Partnerships Café)
11:30-1:00 pm	<p>Plenary Town Hall meeting: Dialogue on lessons from the show and tell sessions “Equipping public institutions for realizing the SDGs”</p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p>
12:30 – 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch dialogue with the private sector/partnerships (Venue: Ballroom C) (by invitation only)</i>
2:00 – 4:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION III</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Effective Partnerships for implementing the SDGs</p> <p>Round Table: “Effective Partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway: what works, what’s new and what has been done at international level (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A& B)</p> <p>Dialogue: What does it take for Governments to successfully mobilize partnerships for reaching the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway?</p>

	<p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What policies and institutional arrangements have best worked for enabling governments to engage in successful partnerships for sustainable development? What are the critical elements of a national enabling environment for this purpose? What competencies and capacities do policymakers need? 2. Do partnerships engage relevant constituencies, including local communities, in shaping their objectives and deliverables? Do partnerships aim to leave no one behind? 3. What are some of the innovative approaches of partnerships in helping Small Island Developing States tackle the SDGs? 4. What are some of the successful governance, structures and models for ensuring accountability for multistakeholder partnerships? How can these models be improved? <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 3)</i></p> <p>Partnership Flash Presentations: Case-sharing and announcement of new partnerships (4-minute each)</p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><i>Wrap up and closing by the Moderator</i></p>
4:30 – 5:00 pm	<i>Coffee Break (Venue: Partnerships Café)</i>
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Interactive dialogue with civil society <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A & B)</i>

Thursday, February 23, 2017

8:00 - 9:00 am	<p><i>FAO Side Event (tbc)</i></p> <p>Breakfast: <i>(Venue: Partnerships Café)</i></p>
9:00 - 10:45 am	<p>SESSION IV</p> <p>Mobilizing ICTs for delivering on the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway</p> <p>Round table 1: Innovative ICT policies and strategies - Journey into innovative ideas to mobilize ICT for delivering on the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A & B)</i></p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For which SDG Targets and SAMOA commitments can ICTs best accelerate implementation? 2. What innovative policies and strategies have worked for deploying ICTs for SDGs? 3. How can governments mobilize the private sector, partnerships and cooperation for mobilizing ICTs including e-government for sustainable development? <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 4)</i></p>
10:45 - 11:15 pm	<p><i>Coffee Break (Venue: Partnerships cafe)</i></p>
11:15 - 1:00 pm	<p>Round table 2: Mobilizing resources and leaving no one behind <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A & B)</i></p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What lessons can be learned from past success and failure in making ICTs and digital services available to the poorest and the most vulnerable? How can we ensure that ICT helps combat inequality? 2. What are innovative approaches to build ICT infrastructure in SIDS? 3. What practical steps can governments and other stakeholders take to bridge the persistent digital divide? 4. How can SIDS tap on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, as indicated by the 2030 Agenda? What support and funding sources can assist SIDS in fast-tracking their ICT needs? <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 4)</i></p>
1:00 – 2:30 pm	<p>Lunch Dialogue with youth <i>(Venue: Ballroom C)</i> <i>(by invitation only)</i></p>
2:30 – 4:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION V</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monitoring, reporting and building statistical capacities</p> <p>Roundtable: Monitoring, reporting and building statistical capacities on SDGs and SAMOA Pathway implementation <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A & B)</i></p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can SIDS national statistical offices effectively keep track of progress towards the SDGs? What are the most critical gaps in their capacities and in existing data sets? Are there examples of initiatives that helped

	<p>bridge those gaps?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Have SIDS identified ways and systems to regularly review their situation regarding the SDGs at national level? What is the main role of their existing institutions in this area? 3. Are parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions engaged in reviewing progress in implementing the SDGs at national level? How can they contribute in this regard? Is civil society able to provide inputs? What are key challenges? 4. How can SIDS engage in carrying out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) in the high-level political forum on sustainable development? What are the main lessons from the first round of VNRs and what are the next steps? <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 5)</i></p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<i>Coffee Break (Venue: Partnership Café)</i>
4:30 – 5:15 pm	<p>THE WAY FORWARD: From Nassau onwards <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A& B)</i></p> <p><i>Host Country and UNDESA:</i> Hon. Khaalis Rolle Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, The Bahamas</p> <p>Mr. WU Hongbo UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs</p> <p>Discussion - Interventions by all participants</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the most critical recommendations emanating from this symposium, based on the draft communique? 2. How can we follow-up on these recommendations at national level and through development cooperation and partnerships? 3. What political statements and actions could be reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF? What are issues should be further discussed in the HLPF, other UN system Fora on oceans, climate change, trade, financial or other issues and in the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and ECOSOC?
5:15 – 5:30 pm	Closing <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A& B)</i>
6:00 pm	Closing Cocktail (Host)

Note:

Simultaneous interpretation (English/French/Spanish/Portuguese) will be provided for all plenary session and Breakout Group 1 (during Session 1 and 2)